

# The U.S. and Arizona Constitutions

## Political Science 210

**Instructor** John A. Garcia

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**M/W 9:30-10:30**

**Office**

**Hours** **Tu/Th 3:30 - 4:00**

*or by appointment*

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### **Text:**

McClory, Toni- Understanding the Arizona Constitution, UA press, 2001

Dalton, Russell- The Good Citizen, CQ Press, 2008.

CQ Researcher – Issues for Debate in American Public Policy, CQ Press, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

### **Description:**

This course will examine, analyze and evaluate the founding principles of the American political system. The formal documents of the national and state constitutions are the foundations from which our examination will be based upon. We will use contemporary issues as the bases for our examination of the role of government (both formally and informally). We will begin with the historical foundations of these constitutions- including guiding principles, concepts, interpretations, applications, and contemporary challenges.

### **Goals:**

A thorough grounding in the underlying principles related to these two documents.

Develop an understanding and being able to analyze these documents and their applications to public policy.

Be better informed "citizens" to participate in our political system and processes.

### **Requirements and Exam Dates:**

There will be three major components to your grade in this course.

- 1) *Class attendance and participation*- while the topics and readings are laid out in this syllabus, full benefit of taking this course is enhanced by

coming to class regularly. Each class period a sign-in sheet will be passed around the class for you to initial for yourself only. In addition, there is an expectation that your participation is both desired and expected. As a result, this part of your overall grade is worth 8 %.

- 2) *Hour examinations*- There will be four in class "hour" examinations over the course of the semester. The dates are noted in the course schedule. Each exam will cover readings and topics up to the date of the exam. The exam will consist of two parts: a) short answer or multiple choice items; and b) essay questions. One week prior to the exam, a listing of the readings pertinent to the exam will be distributed, as well as a core set of essay questions. The essay part of test will draw upon these core essay questions. Each "hour" exam is worth 18%. The last will be schedule during the final examination period **BUT** it remains as your fourth "hour" exam with the same weight and time allocation.
- 3) *Very short in-class multiple choice exams*- Over the course of the semester, there will be **five** very short in class exams over the course of the semester. The exams will be multiple choice items and take up no more than ten minutes of any class period. The lowest scoring exam will be dropped and the remaining four tests scores will be worth 20% (each test worth 5%).

**Class Location and Times:**

Tu/Thur 2:00-3:15 Optical Sciences 410

**Evaluation:**

*Classroom Environment:* The effectiveness and benefits for any course depends on the interaction and involvement between the students in the class and the instructor(s). This cooperative venture can work well with the basic principles of mutual respect and courtesy. This course includes considerable opportunities for interaction, discussions, and other forms of class participation. Our class meets for specific time periods each week such that prompt and timely entry into the classroom avoids unnecessary disruptions and allows for maximum time to devote to the course. Conversations shared with another student should be shared with the entire class or please hold off that conversation until after class. In addition, electronic devices and cell phones should be off or at least on vibration mode. The bottom line for a positive classroom environment is one of mutual respect and courtesy to each other.

*Cheating and Plagiarism:* Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and any form found in this class will be treated as such. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) plagiarism (presenting another's work as your own) and cheating on exams. Any student found culpable of these actions will receive an "E" for the course and reported to the Dean of Students' office for disciplinary action. Each student should familiarize themselves with the University's policies on academic integrity, which can be found at: <http://dos.webb.arizona.edu/uapolicies>.

*Students with Disabilities:* For those students with disabilities, you should let me know if you anticipate any issues related to the format or requirements. I will discuss with you ways to ensure your fullest participation in this course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is important that you are registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; [drc.arizona.edu](http://drc.arizona.edu)) and inform me of your eligibility for such services. Also if notetakers are necessary, let me know as I can recruit volunteers.

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Reading</b>
<b>Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup></b>	Course intro: Scope/Objectives Citizenship test Role of Government in Society	Mc- 1 D- 7
<b>Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup></b>	What kind- Democracy? Democracy- American Style Core Values- individualism, Political Equality	Mc-2
<b>Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup></b>	Core values- Maj. Rule, Min. rights, Economic rights Constitution- basic principles, sep. of powers, federalism, responsiveness, Political Institutions Political ideologies <u>Policy- Gun Violence</u>	D- 1,5 CQ-6
<b>Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup></b>	Federalism-plus/minus American Federalism Cooperative federalism <u>Policy- Education</u>	Mc-7 CQ- 1
<b>Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup></b>	AZ state constitution Autonomy, interdependence, inde- pendence Origins of AZ constitution <u>Policy- Mass Transit</u> <b><u>Exam #1</u></b>	D-2 CQ-9
<b>Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Branches of Government- Congress Organization, Powers, Scope, Res-	Mc-3 CQ-14

	ponsiveness, Challenges <u>Policy area- Immigration</u>	
<b>Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Presidency/ Exec. Branch Growth & development, Powers, Style, Persona <u>Policy: Executive Privilege</u>	Mc-5
<b>Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup></b>	The Judiciary- function, Selection, access, Orig. jurisdiction, Judicial re- view, Senatorial courtesy	Mc-6
<b>Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Bureaucracy- origins, Its nature, or- ganization, Scope, Standards, Oversight <u>Policy- Mortgage Crisis</u>	CQ-12
<b>Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup></b>	The Mass Media: 4 <sup>th</sup> Branch? Practices, Biases, Free Press <u>Policy- Infrastructure</u> <b><u>Exam # 2</u></b>	D- 8 CQ-13
<b>Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup></b>	The Citizenry: Who are They? Citizens and participation Status, suffrage, standing, rights <u>Policy- Domestic Policy</u>	D-4 CQ-5
<b>Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup></b>	Political Parties: Constitutional foun- dation Party system, alignment, Rise & de- cline, org., Voting connection <u>Policy- Universal Health</u>	D-6 CQ-3
<b>Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Elections: who is The Electorate?	Mc-4

	Turnout, registration, State citizenship, candidates, campaigns <u>Policy : Being Green</u> <b><u>Exam #3</u></b>	CQ- 8
<b>Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup></b>	Civil Liberties- Bill of Rights, Expressions, Religion <u>Policy- Hate Speech, Torture</u>	CQ-10,11
<b>Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup></b>	Civil liberties- Criminal Defendants, privacy, Civil rights – Race, Ethnicity, Gender <u>Policy : Affirmative Action</u>	D-9
<b>Dec. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Nat' Security- powers, Jurisdiction, globalization, roles w/i government, public opinion <u>Policy: Iraq War and Iran</u> <b>Exam #4- December 16<sup>th</sup></b>	CQ-15,16